

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1.

Please cancel claim 15.

1. (Currently Amended)      A monolithic polymeric filter membrane comprising:
  - (a)      a polymeric filter layer of a first material including a micron-scale precision-shaped pores ~~and~~;
  - (b)      a polymeric support layer of a second material the same as or sufficiently similar to the first material so as to be capable of chemically bonding therewith, the support layer including a precision-shaped porous support structure for the filter layer; and
  - (c)      a line of distinction defining an interface between the filter layer and the support layer that is not reasonably discernible.
2. (Original)      The filter membrane of claim 1 in which the support layer is thicker than the filter layer.
3. (Original)      The filter membrane of claim 2 in which the support layer is thicker than the filter layer by a factor of between about 2 and 250.
4. (Original)      The filter membrane of claim 1 in which the support layer is substantially coextensive with the filter layer.
5. (Original)      The filter membrane of claim 1 in which the support layer includes at least two sublayers, a first sublayer of a selected porosity and a second sublayer of different porosity than the first sublayer and disposed between the first sublayer and the filter layer.
- 6-13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The filter of claim 1 in which the filter layer and support layer are comprised of different materials that are sufficiently compatible to form a monolithic membrane.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The filter membrane of claim 1 in which the filter layer and support layer are formed separately of the same material and joined together to form the monolithic membrane.

17. (Original) The filter membrane of claim 1 in which the polymeric material of the filter layer is photosensitive, etchable or suitable for laser ablation of x-ray treatment, and the polymeric material of the support layer is photosensitive, etchable or suitable for laser ablation or x-ray treatment.

18. (Original) The filter membrane of claim 1 in which the polymeric material of the filter layer is etchable, and the polymeric materials of the support layer is photosensitive or suitable for laser ablation.

19. (Original) The filter membrane of claim 1 in which the polymeric material of the filter layer and support layer is an etchable polyimide material.

20. (Original) The filter membrane of claim 1 in which the polymeric material of the filter layer and the support layer comprises photosensitive polyimide material.

21. (Original) The filter membrane of claim 1 in which the filter membrane is flexible.

22. (Original) The filter membrane of claim 21 in which the filter membrane is sufficiently flexible to be disposed along a radius of curvature of at least one-half inch.

23. (Original) The filter membrane of claim 1 in which the pore size is less than or equal to about 20 microns.

24. (Original) The filter membrane of claim 1 in which the pore size is less than or equal to about 0.65 microns.

25. (Original) The filter membrane of claim 1 in which the pore size is less than or equal to about 0.22 microns.

26. (Original) The filter membrane of claim 1 in which the pore size is less than or equal to about 2 microns.

27. (Original) The filter membrane of claim 1 in which the pore size is less than or equal to about 0.08 microns.

28. (Original) The filter membrane of claim 1 in which said micron-scale precision-shaped pores are non-circular.

29. (Original) The filter membrane of claim 28 in which said pores are elongated.

30. (Original) The filter membrane of claim 28 in which the pores are sized and shaped to prevent the passage of human blood white cells and permit the passage of red cells and platelets.

31-101. (Canceled)

102. (Original) The filter membrane of claim 1 in which the pore size is less than or equal to about 0.45 microns.